

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functional architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marion County Courthouse

other names/site number Marion County Courthouse (Hannibal)

2. Location

street & number 906 Broadway [n/a] not for publication

city or town Hannibal [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Marion code 127 zip code 63401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Claire F. Blackwell, Deputy SHPO

Date

10/17/02

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls STONE/Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other METAL/Steel

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1901-1952

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hogg, James Oliver, Architect

Menke and Son, Contractor

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, MO

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Narrative Description

SUMMARY

The Marion County Courthouse at 906 Broadway in Hannibal, Missouri is a two story, Neoclassical style public building with a octagonal drum dome topped by an octagonal lantern towering above the two-story portico. The façade and sides are dressed face ashlar limestone with a rusticated, ashlar limestone, raised basement. The cross gable roof below the dome forms pediments on each side of the rectangular building that match the pediment for the portico, which is supported by four massive Corinthian columns. Across the back, the two story gabled wing has rock faced ashlar limestone walls on both sides and common red brick on the back wall of the building. The interior is distinguished by the central hallway that is flanked by court offices and leads to the double-return staircase in front of the upper level courtroom with its elaborate stained glass, round arched transoms on its interior windows and doors overlooking the rotunda. Directly above, the elaborate, stained glass dome caps the rotunda. Because this side of Broadway slopes steeply uphill, the courthouse is elevated above the north side of Broadway between Ninth and Tenth Streets and recessed from the street. There is a retaining wall along the public sidewalk and a small sloping lawn that has a central set of broad, tiered limestone steps leading from the public sidewalk up to the building. The building extends to the edge of the alley that runs between Ninth and Tenth Streets, separating the late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential neighborhood from the major commercial artery, Broadway. The courthouse property includes the parking lot to the west of the building and extends to Tenth Street, which was created from former residential properties. The removal of adjacent buildings actually enhanced the visual prominence of the monumental edifice elevated above the north side of Broadway. The courthouse property is in excellent condition and the building itself has had very few alterations since its construction. Repairs made over an extended period beginning in 1982 under the direction of Martin Meyer of Architechnics, Inc. were carefully executed to maintain the high degree of historic integrity while providing for modern systems and complying with current accessibility and code requirements.

EXTERIOR

Backing up to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential neighborhood (Maple Avenue Historic District, nominated to the National Register), the Marion County Courthouse faces Broadway, which has progressively become a more commercial thoroughfare and one of the major arterial streets in Hannibal. Broadway leads from Main Street, which parallels the Mississippi River just nine blocks east, to the area historically known as "The Wedge" where Broadway and Market Street form a Y-intersection at Maple Avenue (two blocks west). When the courthouse was under construction, Broadway was in the midst of a transformation as the central business district around Main and Broadway was extending further west. When completed in 1901, the building was squeezed onto empty lots between mid-nineteenth century single family residences. These have since been demolished and the adjacent land on both the east and west sides of the property converted into parking lots. The courthouse only owns the parking lot to the west, which was created out of residential properties acquired by the county in 1932 and 1943, although the western portion of the parking lot was not completed until some time after 1950. Shortly after its construction, the commercial transformation of Broadway was completed and today, this stretch of Broadway consists of a mixture of commercial and religious buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The symmetrical design of the monumental courthouse, a 124 by 80 foot building, is characteristic of the Neoclassical style. The front and side elevations of the cross-gabled section of the building share stylistic elements, especially the wall treatments and cornice details that are distinctly Neoclassical motifs. The raised foundation is a rock faced ashlar limestone that visually separates this level from the first floor. The first floor walls of chamfered rusticated limestone, visually forms a series of horizontal bands of progressively smaller courses of stone that extend up to a broad entablature that separates the first floor from the second floor. In contrast, the upper level walls are laid in smooth ashlar limestone that extends up to an entablature that surrounds the building at the roofline. This entablature consists of an architrave, plain frieze capped by a dentil course and modillioned cornice. This same dentil course and modillion pattern is used on the raking cornices surrounding the smooth ashlar limestone tympanums of the pediments on both sides and the front portico.

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Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, MO

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Narrative Description (continued)

The fenestration pattern is vertically aligned on all three levels and all of the wood framed, doublehung, sashed windows on the first and second floor actually have raised meeting rails. The façade window treatments differ from those of the sides and the fenestration pattern varies on each elevation as well. The façade has five primary bays with two windows within each of these bays, except for the central entry on the first floor, but lacks basement windows (except for one at the east end) because the base of the portico extends across the three inner bays. The west elevation has six bays, while the east elevation only has five, in part because of the irregular spacing. While these three elevations have the same window treatment for the basement and first floor openings, the second floor windows differ. The façade windows on the second floor have limestone pediments supported by small brackets on each side and below the sills; the side windows have a broad, continuous rock-faced limestone lintel.

The façade is dominated by the portico, which has four massive, limestone, Corinthian columns with smooth shafts that originally rested on a rock faced ashlar limestone base. Because of severe deterioration, that base had been replaced with a split-faced concrete block during the recent rehabilitation. The floor of the portico is now poured concrete, but was originally slabs of smooth limestone. The Corinthian columns and the matching pilasters surround the perimeter of the entablature and pediment of the portico. The entablature treatment of the portico is continuous with that of the main walls of the façade and side elevations. Raised letters in the front frieze spell out "MARION COUNTY." Concrete replacement steps that span between the two inner columns extend down to the upper sidewalk that joins the original, lower set of limestone steps of the same width. The lower set of steps retains its original limestone wing walls with large square corner posts at each end of the wing walls and the limestone retaining wall along the public sidewalk adjacent to Broadway.

The junction of the three pedimented gables forms a cross gabled roof. Directly behind this junction looms the elaborate octagonal dome that extends 75 feet above the ground level and approximately 35 feet above the eaves of the roof. The base of this octagonal drum dome utilizes the same entablature treatment as the main walls of the building with the architrave, plain frieze, dentil course, and modillioned cornice. Above this entablature, a frieze of rectangular recessed panels and boxed cornice support the drum dome, which originally had a slate roof that has been replaced with a standing seam metal roof. This dome is topped by an octagonal lantern that has 1 x 1 sashed windows on each side and is capped by another boxed cornice and flat roof. Above the lantern of the dome towers the tall flagpole.

To maintain the Neoclassical proportions to the volume of the building, the two story extension across the back of the building is minimized by giving it a totally different wall and window treatment. This two story section does not have a basement, in part because of the slope of the land, but this section is part of the original design, not an addition, and houses the courtroom on the upper level. The walls on the east and west sides are clad in rock faced ashlar limestone while the back wall is common red brick. A limestone cornice caps the upper walls on each side, while the back wall does not form a pediment in the gable end, being simply a red brick wall. The windows are not vertically aligned. The first floor windows on each side as well as those on the second floor of the west elevation are wooden doublehung sashed windows with square heads. The second floor windows on the east elevation and rear (north) elevation are tall and narrow, with round arched transoms above the wooden doublehung sashed windows. The arched windows on the second floor are paired with three pairs on the east and four on the north. The first floor windows on the back elevation and the two east windows on the second floor of the back elevation are segmental arched, wooden, doublehung sashed windows.

INTERIOR

The interior of the courthouse is laid out on three functional levels with the main staircase serving as the organizational point for the floor plans. The central entry has a small open vestibule that steps up to the main first floor level. Offices flank the central entry hall on both sides and behind the double-return staircase that leads up to the rotunda on the second floor. Surrounding the rotunda on the east, west and south sides are additional offices with the main courtroom across the north end of the building, beginning at the stair landing. The back side of the main staircase has an open flight, straight staircase that leads into the basement's linear hallway. The basement hall is flanked by a series of small offices and storage rooms and its hall walls now form the bookshelves of the law library.

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Marion County Courthouse
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Narrative Description (continued)

Most of the original interior detailing and main walls have been retained throughout the building's history and provide striking examples of the workmanship that went into the building. The walls are generally the original plaster and the building retains most of its original stained oak trim and window frames. While the office ceilings have dropped acoustical panels to accommodate modern fluorescent lights and forced air ductwork, the hallways retain the original high plaster ceilings. The interior doors are oak with five raised panels and have oak, plain cap trim that forms a small entablature and cornice detail. Most interior doors are transomed as well. The baseboards, especially in the halls, are the original oak, three part baseboards. The double-return staircase, which extends to all three levels, was custom made of oak with turned balusters, fluted drops, and paneled newel posts capped by decorative ball finials. Most of the original, steel vaults are still in use with their elaborate Classical Revival styling around the vault doors, including elaborate cast iron, fluted pilasters supporting the cast iron broken pediment with a decorative urn in the round arched pediment.

The vestibule and first floor hall have tan and brown ceramic tile floors, with brown marble steps between the vestibule and first floor level. The vestibule and front hall on the first floor have oak beaded wainscoting that is visually extended around the remaining first floor walls by an oak chair rail. At the top of the vestibule steps are two pilaster strips that have paired acanthus leaf brackets supporting the boxed structural beam. Where the front hall widens around the main staircase of the rotunda, there is an even broader boxed beam with three acanthus leaf brackets at the top of the flat pilasters. Behind the main staircase, supporting the second floor courtroom wall and the back side of the staircase leading to the second floor are two large cast iron columns, approximately two feet at the base which have metal rosettes underneath the top plates. A boxed structural beam spans between these two columns and plastered, round arches extend up either side, connecting the halls on either side of the stairs with the back hall spanning behind these columns.

When approaching the second floor, the staircase faces a wall at the landing where the bronze plaque erected in 1901 commemorates the building. It is framed with a strand of embossed ivy and reads:

ERECTED A. D. 1901.

W. B. DRESCHER PRESIDING JUDGE

J. L. HAWKINS ASSOCIATE

GEO. W. PINE JUDGES

JAMES OLIVER HOGG ARCHITECT

W. B. RICHARDSON, SUPT.

MENKE AND SONS, CONTRACTORS

Positioned on the wall at the stair landing is the triple paned window with an elaborate and colorful stained glass, half round transom that separates the rotunda from the courtroom to the north. Flat pilasters with Corinthian capitals flank the landing wall. At each end of this wall (the top of the steps) are squared off corner walls under the octagonal dome walls. Beyond the pilasters at each end of the north wall of the rotunda are paired, rectangular light, oak framed doors into the courtroom. These doors also have equally elaborate and colorful stained glass, half round transoms.

The upper level rotunda is surrounded on the other three sides by the oak balustrade and has similar pilasters with Corinthian columns supporting each corner of the octagonal dome. The rotunda dome is an elaborate tiered structure, beginning with an elaborate entablature that has a swag in the frieze with small incandescent light, bare bulb fixtures (original to the building) molded into the points of the swag. Above this frieze is a dentil course capped by egg-and-dart molding. A series of Acanthus leaf brackets support the cornice, behind which is recessed light of the lace-like wall finish of the first tier of the dome. Separating this lower tier of the octagonal dome from the next section is a chamfered course with diamond pattern rosettes. The next level of the dome is framed with an Acanthus leaf course and has the same lace-like wall finish as the lowest tier of the dome. The third tier does not have curved walls like the lower two tiers; rather it has flat walls with two recessed panels framed with egg-and-dart molding and capped by another egg-and-dart course to the crown molding at the base of the elaborate, stained glass, octagonal dome.

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Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, MO

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Narrative Description (continued)

The courtroom had its dropped, acoustical ceiling removed as part of the major historic rehabilitation project that began in 1982, exposing the original running beams that form the coffered ceilings. These beams are beaded and have a scroll of leaves on their bottom face and are visually supported by the series of flat, Corinthian pilasters that separates the room into three bays on each (east and west) end and four bays on the north and south sides. The judge's bench is in a niche with a shoulder arch supported by paired Acanthus leaf brackets centered at the west end of the room with doors in each flanking bay leading into private chambers. Between each bay of the north and east walls are pairs of tall, round arched, transomed, wood sashed windows, that currently have the transoms enclosed. The front of the courtroom on the west end is separated by a serpentine railing with massive, oak, turned balusters. The main seating appears to be original, plank benches bolted to cast iron framing that supports the backs and seats as well as form the legs for each bench.

ALTERATIONS AND INTEGRITY ISSUES

The building retains a very high level of historic integrity on both the exterior and interior, with modifications made primarily to accommodate current code requirements, modern lighting and forced air ventilation systems, but this was done discreetly. The major historic rehabilitation project that began in 1982 and extending throughout the 1990s, focused on maintaining or restoring the significant stylistic details on the exterior and in the interior's hallways and courtroom, actually exposing the original courtroom ceiling. The rehabilitation project included masonry restoration, new heating and cooling systems, new electrical service and wiring, handicap accessibility issues such as restrooms and an elevator, security issues, computer network wiring, and new roofing. Original decorative finishes, ceilings, doors, stained glass skylights and transoms, and quarry tile floor were restored or replicated and cost approximately \$2,000,000.00 when finished. Martin E. Meyer of Architechnics, Inc. in Quincy, Illinois supervised the lengthy renovation project. Elevation drawings and floorplans from this renovation are included in this section of the nomination, both to clarify the layout of the building and to highlight alterations (bold lines on the floorplans and numbered entries on the elevations). These drawings clearly show the care that was taken to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, restricting alterations to less visible areas of the building while accommodating current use requirements.

Exterior alterations are minor, including aluminum combination storm windows and a new aluminum framed entry. A new foundation had to be built under the portico, but split faced concrete blocks closely approximates the original rock-faced ashlar limestone and the concrete steps maintain the original proportions as well. The stairs originally had stepped, mitered sides that had a pyramid-like appearance, but those had to be squared off for safety concerns and simple iron railings were added for the same reason. Unfortunately, years ago, at some point prior to the 1965 photo included with this nomination, the rooftop balustrade and the finial flagpole at the front of the portico were removed. On many other regional examples of Neoclassicism, these elements were actually fashioned out of pressed metal and quickly rusted, possibly the case here as well. There is an additional set of stairs and an elevator, enclosed in a room midway back on the east elevation, discreetly added to meet modern fire codes and handicap access issues. On the interior, dropped acoustical ceilings have been added to many of the offices and their floors covered with carpeting or linoleum, but these changes are limited to the less public spaces, not the hallways, rotunda, or courtroom. Also there has been some minor wall reconfiguration, but not in the hallways. For safety reasons, a rubber stair runner was installed on the wood stairs. The tile floor in the first and second floor halls is actually new custom designed, quarry tile made to match the original. Wherever possible, the original oak trim and detailing, including some of the original counters, were retained and new openings received complimentary oak trim and doors that closely approximates the original design. While other alterations were made for security reasons, they were discreetly added and like other alterations to the public spaces and exterior of the building, do not substantially affect the visual integrity of the original design. In fact, today, the completed renovation project has helped restore some of the building's original splendor and helped ensure that its physical condition can survive another century as one of the most prominent buildings in Hannibal's historic commercial center.

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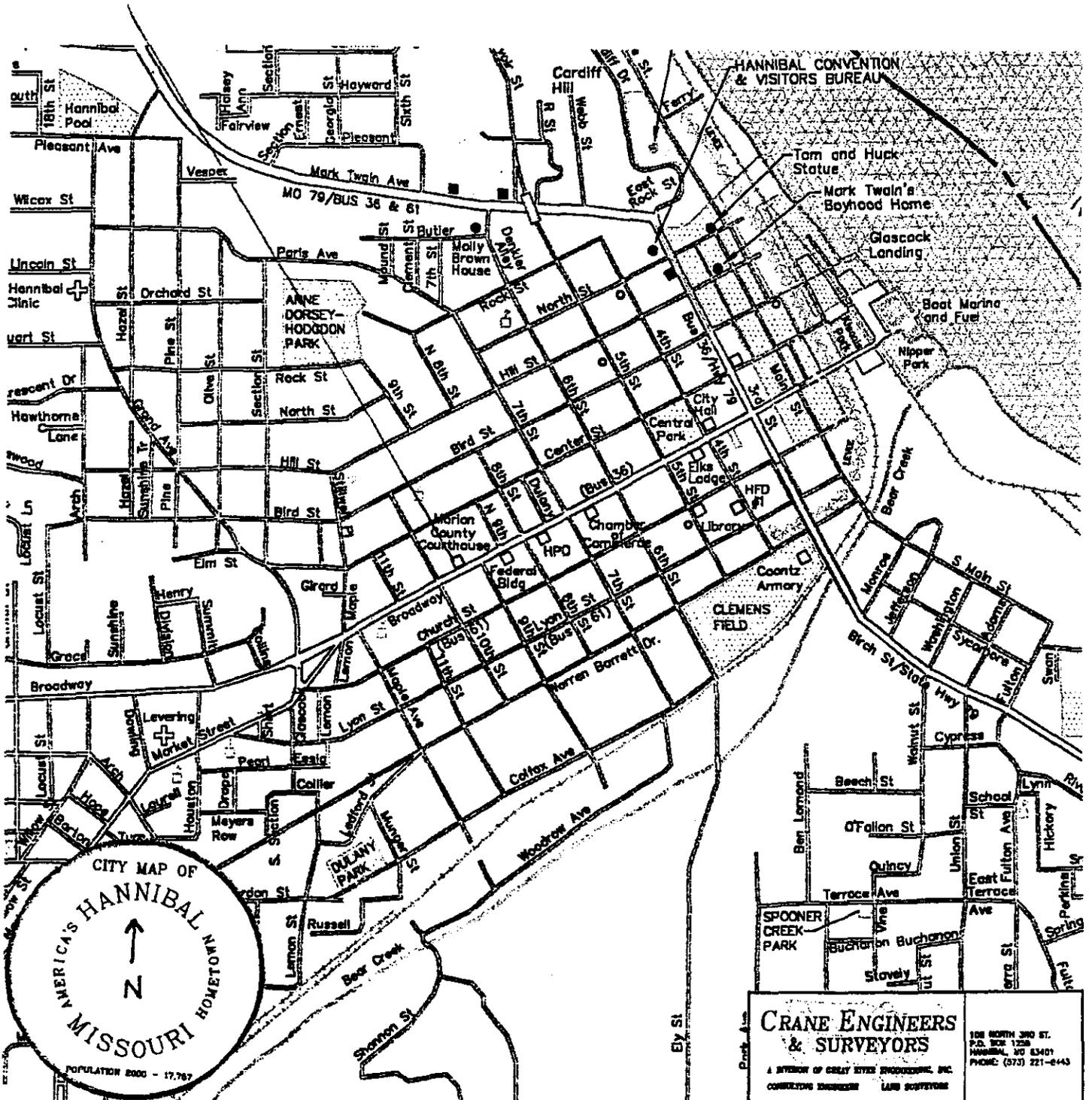
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Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, MO

Map of the City of Hannibal, MO
Locating Property

Drawn by Crane Engineers & Surveyors.
Hannibal, Missouri.



CRANE ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
 A DIVISION OF GRAY RIVER ENGINEERING, INC.
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS LAND SURVEYORS

108 NORTH 3RD ST.
 P.O. BOX 1228
 HANNIBAL, MO 63401
 PHONE: (573) 221-8443

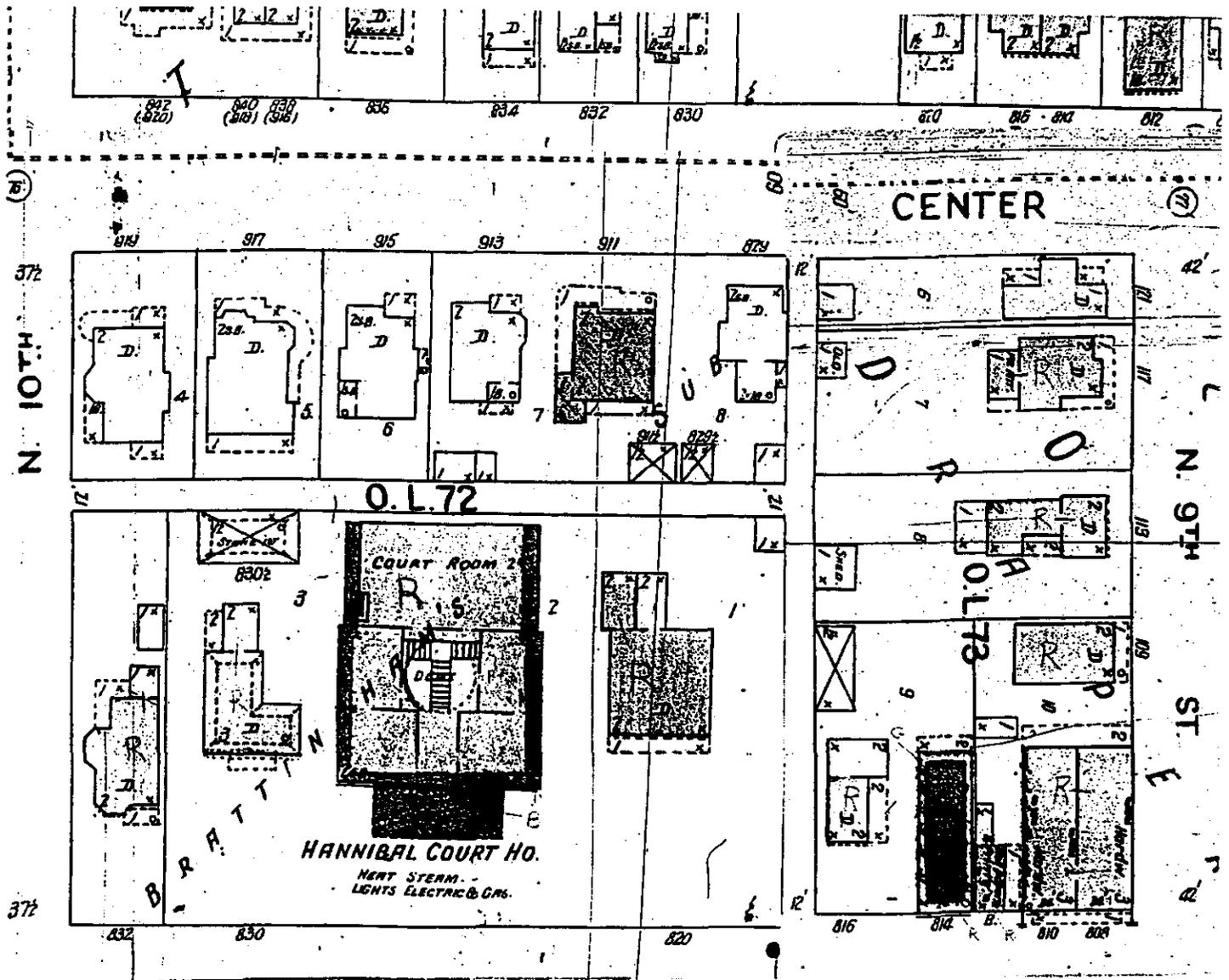
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Marion County Courthouse
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Map of North Side of Broadway in 1906
Locating New Courthouse

Taken from "Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri."
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1906.



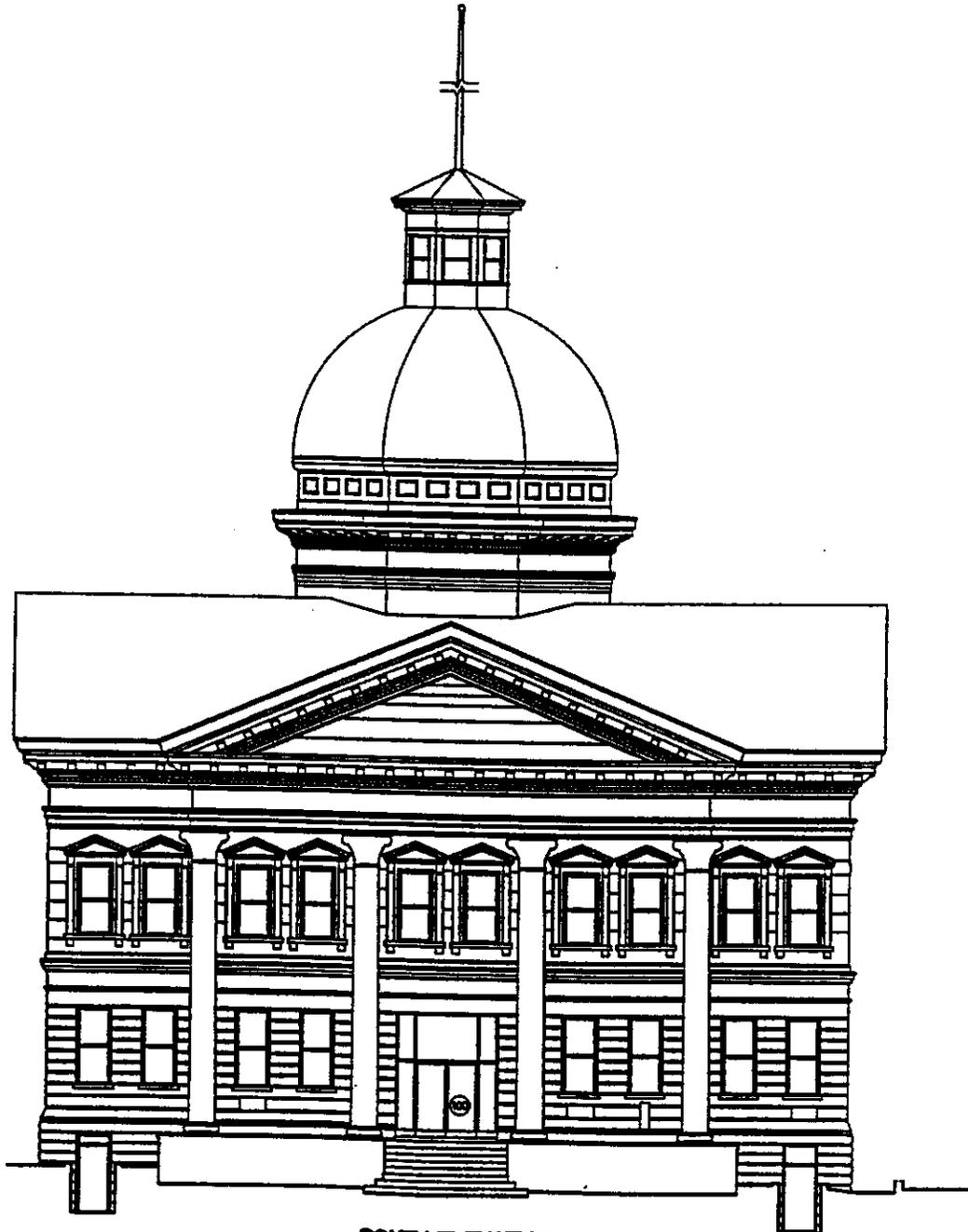
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Marion County Courthouse
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South Elevation Drawing

"Renovation Work for: Marion County Commission, Hannibal Courthouse"
Prepared by Architechnics, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1999



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

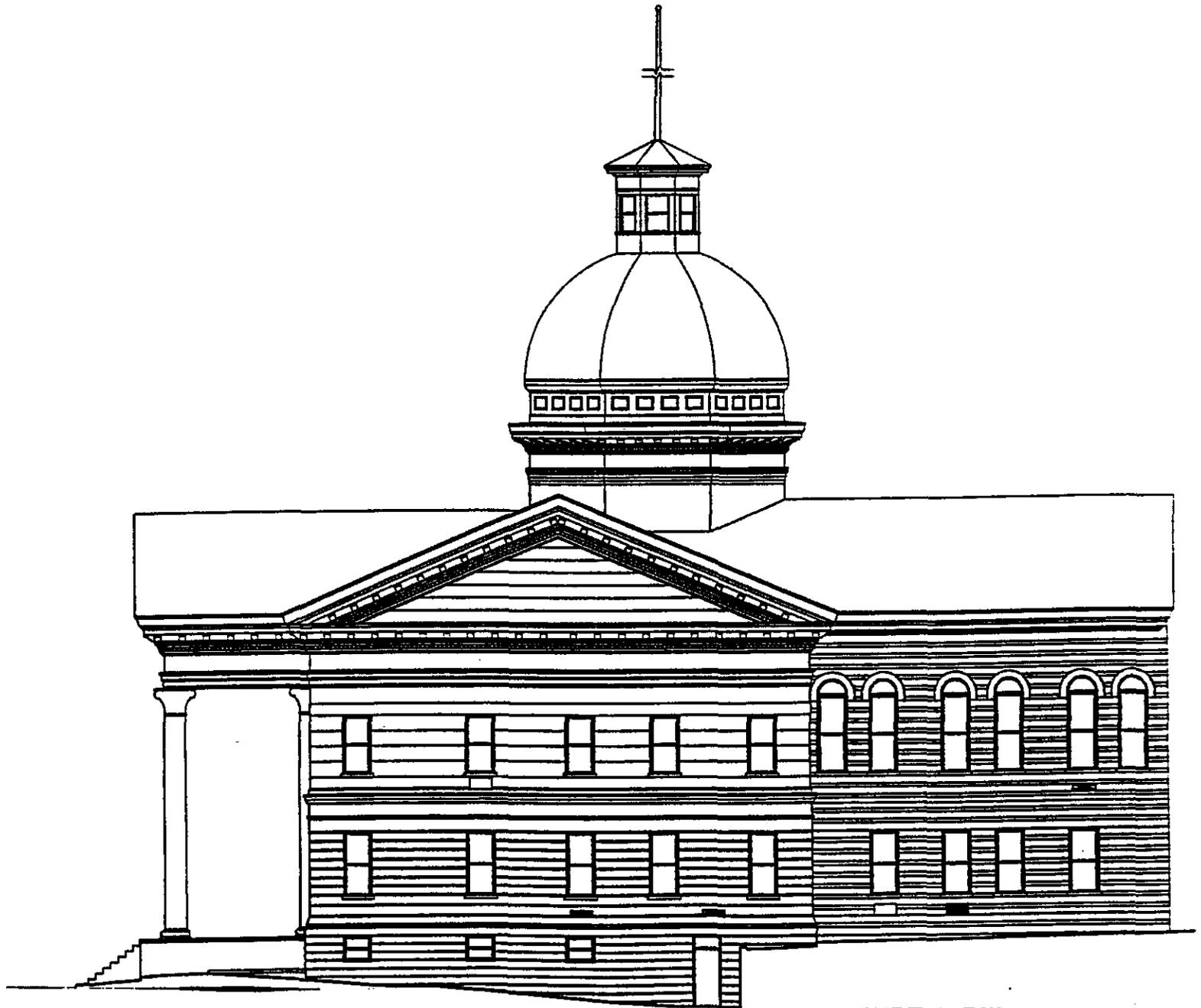
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Marion County Courthouse
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East Elevation Drawing

"Renovation Work for: Marion County Commission, Hannibal Courthouse"
Prepared by Architechnics, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1999



EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

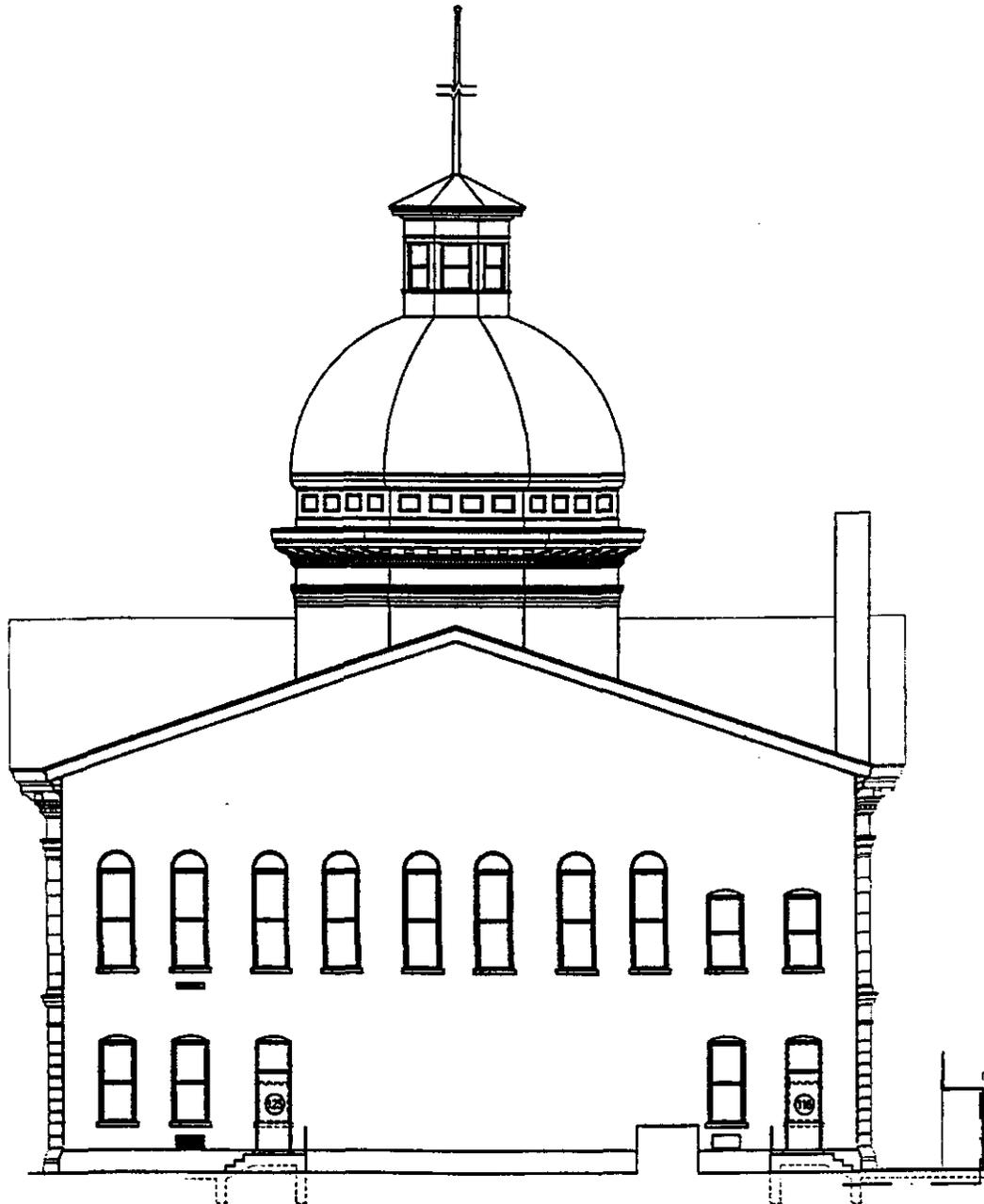
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North Elevation Drawing

"Renovation Work for: Marion County Commission, Hannibal Courthouse"
Prepared by Architechnics, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1999



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

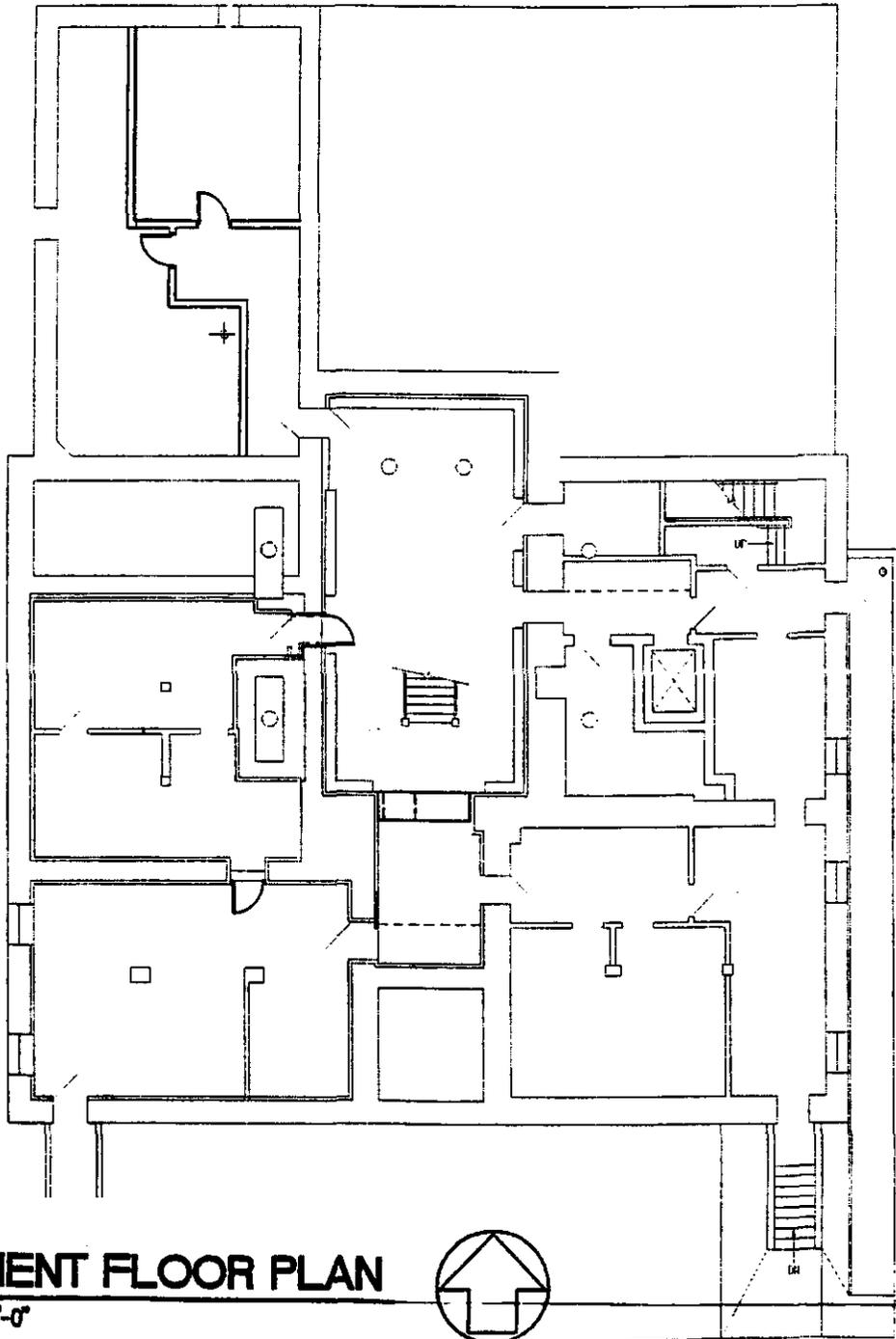
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Basement Floor Plan

"Renovation Work for: Marion County Commission, Hannibal Courthouse"
Prepared by Architechnics, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1999



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



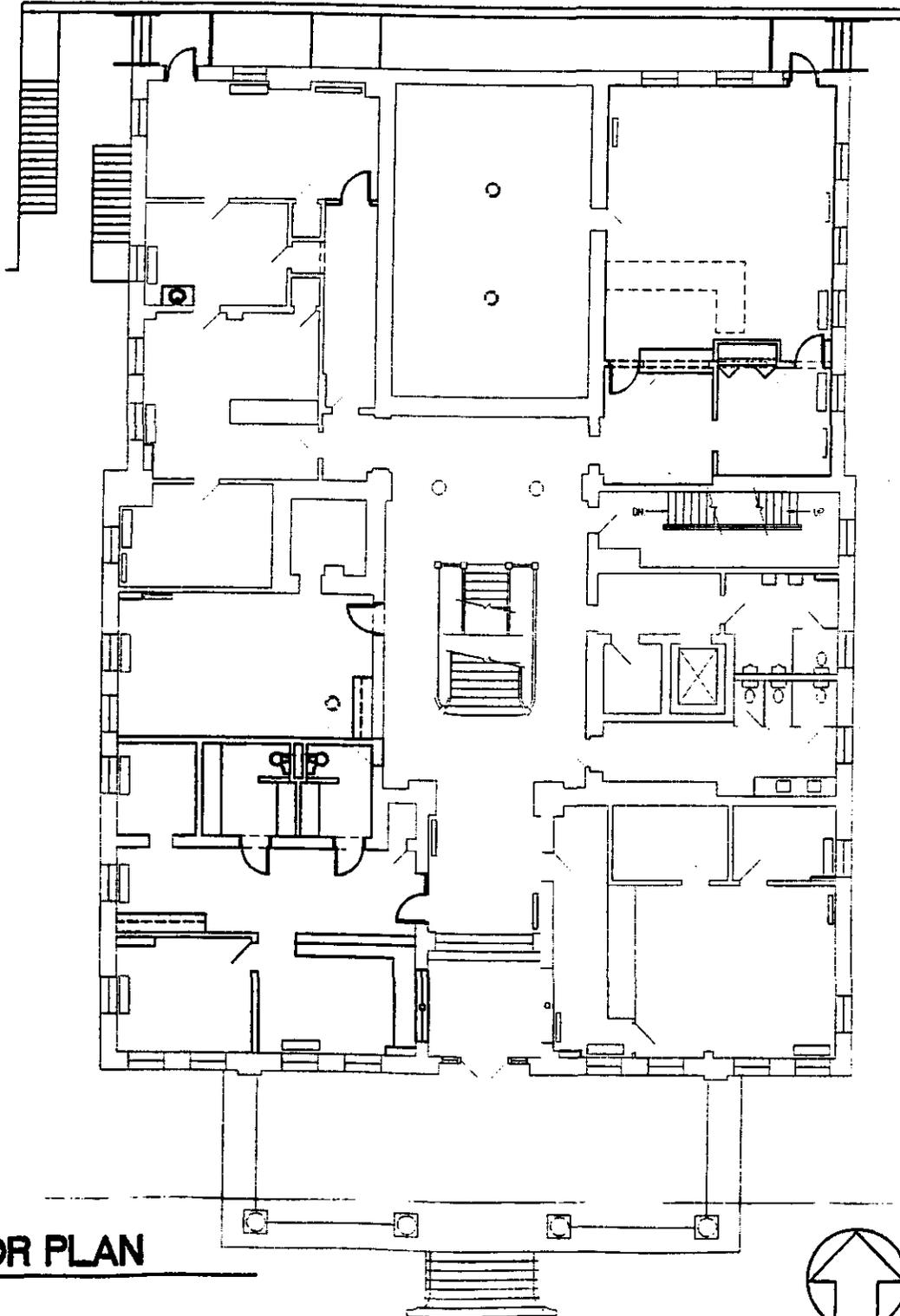
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Marion County Courthouse
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First Floor Plan

"Renovation Work for: Marion County Commission, Hannibal Courthouse"
Prepared by Architechnics, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1999



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

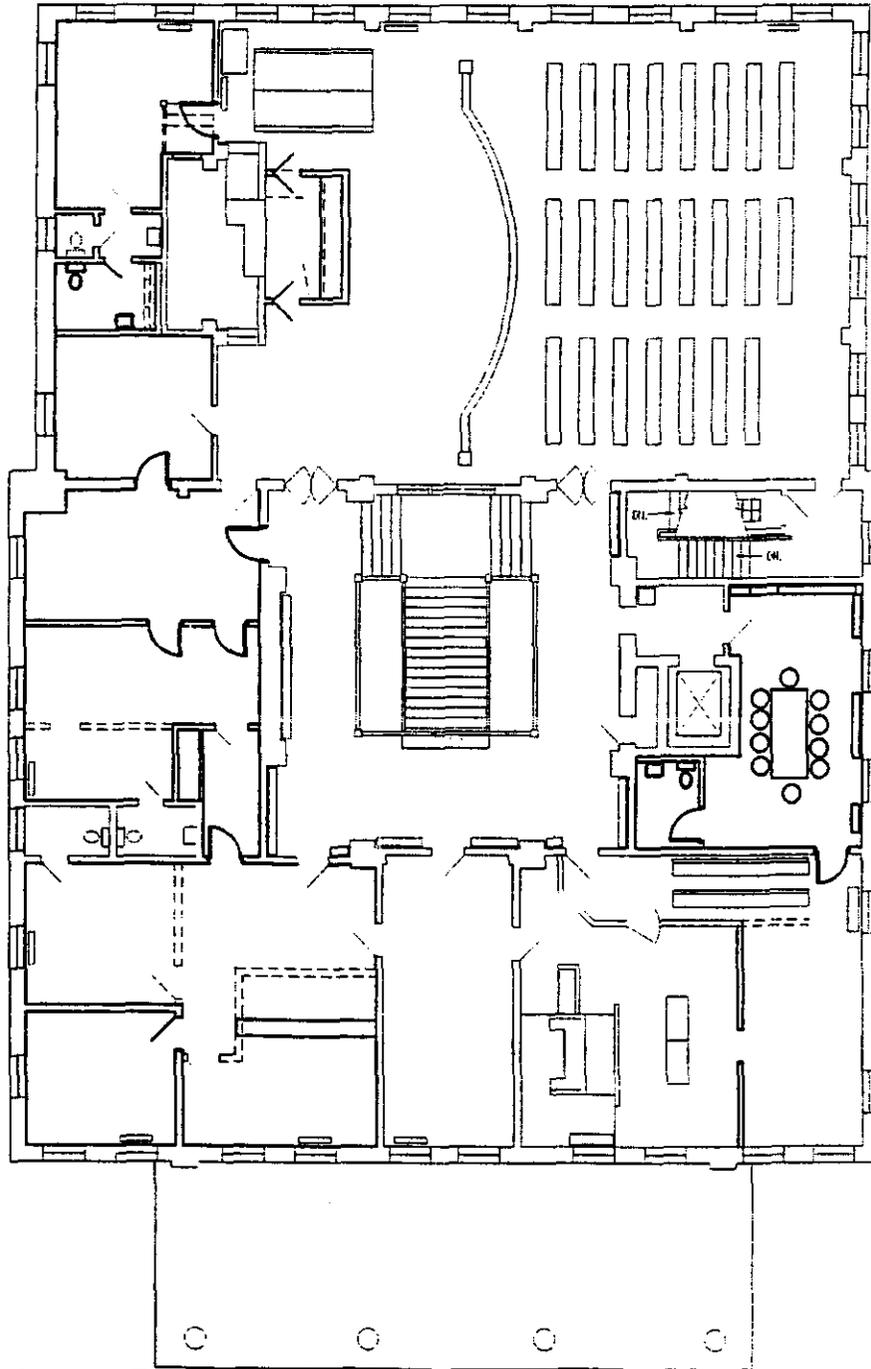
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Marion County Courthouse
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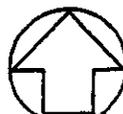
Second Floor Plan

"Renovation Work for: Marion County Commission, Hannibal Courthouse"
Prepared by Architechnics, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1999



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



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Marion County Courthouse
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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

Completed in July 1901, the Marion County Courthouse at 906 Broadway in Hannibal, Missouri is significant under Criterion A: Politics/Government for its importance in the history of county government in Marion County. It is the only courthouse ever constructed in Hannibal and one of two courthouses built that year in Marion County, the other being in Palmyra, the county seat. The construction of the courthouse in Hannibal ended years of political debate in Marion County, since Hannibal's population had far surpassed Palmyra's in the nineteenth century and threatened to divide the county over the issue of relocating all of the court's activities to Hannibal. By dividing the courthouse functions between Palmyra and Hannibal and by building two new courthouses with the same bond issue, all factions seemed to be mollified. The Marion County Courthouse in Hannibal stands today as a testament to the county government's solution to the dilemma caused by the early establishment of the county seat in Palmyra but the subsequent concentration of economic activity and development of Hannibal. The Marion County Courthouse in Hannibal is also significant under Criterion C: Architecture as one of only two Neoclassical designed, porticoed courthouses in Missouri dating from the turn of the twentieth century (the other being in Columbia). It is also significant under Criterion C: Architecture as the most notable work in Hannibal of well known Kansas City architect, James Oliver Hogg (1858-1941), who had grown up in Hannibal after his family relocated from Wisconsin in 1859 when he was a baby. In 1979, under Section 106 Review, the Marion County Courthouse in Hannibal was determined eligible by the Secretary of the Interior for listing on the National Register under Criterion C, for its association with James Oliver Hogg and as a good example of Neoclassical design. The nomination is being made under local significance for its importance in Marion County's history with a period of significance of 1901 through 1952, based upon the fifty year requirement for National Register listing, although the courthouse continues to be an important institution and building in Hannibal today.

History of Hannibal and Marion County

As part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, fur trappers and explorers had already visited the area that became Marion County, but few white settlers moved into the area until the United States surveyed the area in 1818. With the Panic of 1819, settlers moved rapidly into this area of Missouri and by 1821 Missouri became a state. Even then, it was an arduous trip up the Mississippi River from St. Louis and most bypassed the area of Hannibal to settle on farms in the interior of what would become Marion County. Settlement along the Mississippi River in Hannibal was discouraged both by clouded titles due to land speculation as well as the topography of the Hannibal area, justly known as the Bluff City for its high hills and bluffs. With the establishment of Hannibal as a riverboat port and the settlement of land disputes, the community began to grow rapidly in the 1830s, developing into the primary commercial center of Marion County. Hannibal provided a reliable means of transportation for farmers to ship their produce down river to Saint Louis and it provided a nearby location for immigrants and farmers needing to purchase supplies. Even so, the young settlement was only connected to the interior of Marion County by poor roads that paralleled the river or led northwest to Palmyra or southwest to New London.¹

While most of Marion County retained its agrarian character, by the mid-1850s Hannibal's economy began a major transformation. No longer concentrating on simply shipping out the area's produce, Hannibal also developed a number of substantial industries. In 1852, the construction of the plank road to New London provided much improved road conditions for this farm to market route along the nearly flat route that paralleled Bear Creek along Broadway and Market Street.² In addition to the Port of Hannibal, the construction of "the Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad made the city attractive to industrial and business concerns coveting the western trade."³ Besides the already successful wholesale grocery businesses, cigar making, and flour mills, a variety of other industries (rope, soap, candle, matchworks, carriage manufacturing and pork packing among others) became important in Hannibal during the 1850s because of this easy access to transportation. Even Hannibal's most significant late nineteenth century industry, lumber, began in this decade. Rafts of logs were floated down the Mississippi River from northern forests to Hannibal where they were cut into building materials and shipped to points west and south using the railroad. During the 1850s, Hannibal's population had nearly tripled and on the eve of the Civil War, the 1860 census recorded 6505 residents in Hannibal while the county only had a population of 14,874.⁴

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Marion County Courthouse
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The contrast between the commercial and industrial expansion of Hannibal and the farm-based economy of the rest of Marion County increased during the late nineteenth century. As Hannibal's industry developed the population grew, and the commercial and professional businesses expanded. Although growth was stymied by the Civil War, the pace picked up quickly in the post-war years, as the lumber industry flourished in Hannibal, now the fourth largest lumbering center in the United States. Hannibal also became an important railroad center after the completion of a bridge across the Mississippi in 1871 and with the completion of the Union Depot in 1882 that connected the town with eastern and western markets. The shoe industry had supplanted the failing lumber industry and led to another rapid expansion in Hannibal at the turn of the twentieth century. In the first decades of the twentieth century, Hixson Shoes was joined by the Star Shoe Company, the International Shoe Company and the Bluff City Shoe Company, employing thousands of Hannibal citizens.⁵

By 1900, Hannibal had far surpassed the development of the rest of Marion County, becoming the largest town in the county, doubling the pre-Civil War population to 12,780, and acquiring many of the accoutrements of late Victorian society. Streetcar lines along Main Street and Broadway to "The Wedge" encouraged residential as well as business development west of the original townsite. The gas company, telephone service and the water company all began operations in 1879. In 1885, the municipal electric light and power plant was organized and funded. This industrial prosperity encouraged additional, rapid expansion in the community. Extensive construction of residences occurred with a surge in population, especially during the first decade of the new century when the population increased nearly 50 percent to 18,341. After 1910 the pace of growth slowed considerably, peaking on the eve of the Great Depression, with 22,761 recorded residents in Hannibal in 1930, while the county only reached its peak population of 33,493. By 1930, the town had assumed the proportions it would retain until the next big building boom in the 1950s; at the same time the population in the rest of Marion County continued to decline.⁶

History of Marion County Courthouses

Initially, the territory of Missouri had been divided into four districts and the area that became Marion County was under the district of St. Charles. All civil matters and land claims had to be taken to the district court in St. Charles, an arduous trip when the district was established in 1812, but the court progressively moved northward as the population increased and the larger jurisdiction was subdivided into county governments. Statehood came to Missouri in 1821 and in 1825, Marion County was organized with Palmyra as the county seat.⁷ At first county officials met in homes. Although there had been an order to build a courthouse in Palmyra in 1829, the contract was not let until 1831, and it was not until 1835 that the first Marion County Courthouse, a brick building, was completed in Palmyra for a cost of \$1,750.⁸ In December 1853, Felps and McLeod received the contract to build the second courthouse building on the same site in Palmyra for a cost of \$15,750.⁹ Completed in 1855, this large, brick, building had a tall dome reached by winding stairs and provided a panoramic view of Marion County and the Mississippi River.¹⁰

The lack of decent roads between Hannibal and Palmyra increased demands for county services in Hannibal.¹¹ Then, just as the new courthouse was being completed, the economy and population of Hannibal began its rapid transformation from a small backwater community into a major shipping point along the Mississippi River. Although not the county seat, Hannibal had a Court of Common Pleas since 1844 to handle maritime services; its duties were then broadened in 1845 to include probate matters and by 1847 its responsibilities also included misdemeanors, felonies and appeals from the City Court. In 1861 the Marion County government purchased the old First Presbyterian Church building on Fourth Street between Hill and Bird Streets¹² to use as the offices for the Hannibal Court of Common Pleas, the Court Clerk's office and the office of the Probate Court.¹³ As Hannibal's population mushroomed after the Civil War, pressure mounted for a courthouse in Hannibal, possibly even relocating the county seat from Palmyra to Hannibal. Although Palmyra was more centrally located within Marion County, the population and thus the use of the county court facilities had shifted east to the river at Hannibal in the late nineteenth century.¹⁴

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Recognizing the likelihood of increasing demands and justification for relocating the county seat to Hannibal, Marion County government began seeking a compromise that would not divide the county politically.¹⁵ In 1885, one attempt to resolve the issue resulted in a failed bond issue that would have funded much needed repairs to the Palmyra courthouse building and constructed a courthouse in Hannibal. Many rural residents of Marion County as well as citizens of Palmyra still preferred the convenience of the Palmyra location, and their strong voter turnout meant that the bond issue failed. Even so, Hannibal's community leaders continued to pressure the Marion County government for increased county services in Hannibal.¹⁶ In March 1894, a delegation from Hannibal went to Palmyra to consult with the court officials again about repairing the Palmyra courthouse and erecting a courthouse in Hannibal.¹⁷ Since it had been obvious for years that the Palmyra courthouse needed major repairs and the building housing the Hannibal Court of Common Pleas was deteriorating dangerously, it appeared that the only compromise that could potentially receive voter approval would be one that funded two new courthouse buildings, one in Palmyra and one in Hannibal.¹⁸ Since the previous bond issue in 1885, the population balance had shifted even more toward Hannibal, increasing the awareness of citizens throughout Marion County of the need to compromise before pressure switched toward moving the county seat from Palmyra to Hannibal.

Finally, on January 23, 1900, voters approved a \$100,000.00 bond issue to build two new courthouse buildings, one in Palmyra and one in Hannibal.¹⁹ The vote was 3,263 in favor of, with 1,096 against, the bond issue countywide. Hannibal had cast 2,072 votes in favor of the proposal and Palmyra had cast 593 positive votes. Only 165 Hannibal voters and 61 Palmyra voters opposed the issue,²⁰ with most of the opposition coming from the rural areas. Instrumental in the passage of this bond issue, besides providing for a courthouse in both towns, was the division of county services with probate clerk, collector, assessor, and sheriff's offices in both locations. Palmyra would continue to be the official county seat and provide offices for the treasurer, road and bridge commissioner, surveyor, public administrator, and county superintendent of schools, while Hannibal would continue to house the county attorney, court clerk, and Court of Common Pleas.²¹

Both new courthouses were built coincidentally, with the Palmyra courthouse built on the site of the original courthouse.²² Hannibal's new building was finished first, on July 12, 1901, while Palmyra's was finished on August 4, 1901. The Palmyra courthouse, which itself may be eligible for listing in the National Register, was designed by architect William N. Bowman, while the commission for the Hannibal courthouse went to James Oliver Hogg. Each was a distinctive design. Palmyra's was a massive three story, Victorian Romanesque gray brick building with massive round arched recessed entries, a hipped roof capped by a tall square tower, central gabled bays on each elevation, and a raised limestone foundation. Hannibal's design drew upon the popular Neoclassical Revival style, noted mostly for its two story portico and large dome. To this day, both buildings continue to serve the county government and although the services have shifted in minute ways, there have not been any serious efforts to merge the functions or to eliminate one of the two courthouse locations.²³

Construction of the Courthouse in Hannibal

Initially five sites had been considered for the new Hannibal courthouse.²⁴ The 100 x 160 foot lot on Broadway between Ninth and Tenth Streets was purchased due to its prime location. Situated along the streetcar line and along Hannibal's major commercial artery, Broadway leads directly east to Main Street and the river, connecting the business district to Market Street, which was one of the major roads into town. The initial contract for the construction of the building was awarded to the contractor, F. W. Menke and Sons at a cost of \$41,000.²⁵ William Richardson was given the task of supervising the construction of both the Hannibal and Palmyra courthouse projects.²⁶ James Oliver Hogg, an architect in Kansas City, received the commission to design the Hannibal courthouse,²⁷ probably in part because he was from Hannibal and his family had operated a major construction business in town since the 1870s. The building was designed to be a "temple to justice,"²⁸ thus the Neoclassical style, and to incorporate thoroughly modern accoutrements, most notably the 350 electric lights from Chicago Gas and Electric Fixture Manufacturing Company, installed by C. W. Bronson throughout all parts of the building at a cost of \$585.00.²⁹ Once completed, these lights were turned on all at once for the

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first time on July 6, 1901, resulting in this enthusiastic description by a local reporter: "The electric illuminations of the new court house which were turned on for the first time last night, made the grand temple of justice a scene of splendor . . . it was a burst of light brilliantly dazzling." The reporter seemed particularly impressed that all or any portion of the lighting could be "made light as day or involved in darkness" simply by touching a button. He noted that every area of the building was lighted: "the numerous and various departments of the house from entrance to rear and from basement to dome, every office large and small, every corridor, stairway, vault receptacle and toilet room."³⁰ Other subcontracts identified in the local newspaper included the staircase railing by Lane and McNally,³¹ 32 steam radiators from the Saint Louis Radiator Company,³² the paint contract with J. R. Key,³³ the vaults (with steel rollers, shelves, and file cases) from Art Metallic Manufacturing Company of Saint Louis,³⁴ the gold and Japanned tin lettering of interior doors by M. C. Bullock,³⁵ and furniture from Durkin and Kemphen of Quincy, Illinois.³⁶

Construction began rapidly, and by July 1900, one local citizen noted that the foundation was being put in for the new courthouse.³⁷ One year later, the Hannibal Improvement Association made arrangements for a grand opening and party to celebrate the completion of the courthouse to be held on July 12, 1901,³⁸ the same day that the judges inspected and accepted the new building and abandoned the old Court of Common Pleas on Fourth Street³⁹ (which was auctioned off and demolished).⁴⁰ The massive celebration, called a "housewarming," was reported as "one of the grandest affairs to-night that was ever recorded in the annals of public festivities."⁴¹ The ceremonies included the symbolic lighting of the building by Bronson, where crowds gathered on the streets to watch the electrical display.⁴² Visitors paid 50 cents each to attend the festivities in the building which was hosted by the judges and other county officials with special guests being Mr. and Mrs. James Oliver Hogg.⁴³ Dance music was provided by the Opera House Orchestra with Arthur Conklin as the caller. Besides dancing, the planning committee provided refreshments, including lemonade and ice cream, and games. "A number of Hannibal's best and most enterprising colored men" donated services to the Improvement Association as waiters for the event.⁴⁴

Architectural Legacy

It had taken Hannibal's leaders nearly fifty years to get the courthouse building completed and the citizens were justly proud of the new edifice. Its Neoclassical styling, especially its two-story portico, was an unusual stylistic choice for a courthouse in Missouri; the only other was built for Boone County in Columbia at the turn of the century.⁴⁵ The courthouse building is also the best example of the Neoclassical style and the only porticoed public building in Hannibal. The other exceptional example of Neoclassical styling in Hannibal was on a private residence, Rockcliffe Mansion (listed on the National Register, 9/18/80). Since the city hall is now missing its entablature and the old Second Empire, federal courthouse has been converted into a restaurant and bar, the Marion County Courthouse in Hannibal is also the best-preserved public building as well. It has undergone an extensive historic rehabilitation that began in 1982 but took nearly two decades to complete (updating systems and revealing interior details hidden under well-meaning "updates" such as dropped ceilings and paint). Since its construction it has provided a striking contrast to the surrounding brick commercial buildings and residences.

With the revival of interest in classical styles after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, many architects at the turn of the century fashioned dramatic, monumental, colonnaded public buildings in what is known as the Neoclassical style,⁴⁶ and James Oliver Hogg's design for the Marion County Courthouse was at the height of this fashion and very characteristic of that style. Its monumental proportions with the four, two story, Corinthian columns support the pediment of the portico, which is approached by a long set of steps. Because of the steep hillside sloping up behind the courthouse, it is even more imposing on the street front since it is elevated above the street by a stone retaining wall and steep lawn. There are additional pediments on each side, enhancing its temple-like appearance. Its large octagonal drum dome has a frieze, cornice and paneled parapet topped by an octagonal lantern. Above the rusticated limestone foundation, the walls are deeply beveled, dressed limestone on the first floor level and smooth on the second floor where the second floor front windows are pedimented and bracketed by pilasters. The interior features a double return staircase

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under the massive rotunda and stained glass dome and focuses attention at the entry to the second floor courtroom where stained glass transomed windows and doors separate the rotunda from the courtroom across the north end of the building. At the landing below the courtroom wall is a 4' x 4' bronze plaque commemorating the judges, architect, contractor, and superintendent of construction,⁴⁷ prominently and appropriately located as a monument to both Hannibal and Marion County's efforts to better provide government services to the citizens of Hannibal.

Besides providing Hannibal with one of its most significant buildings and best examples of Neoclassicism, the Marion County Courthouse in Hannibal is also significant because it was designed by Hannibal's adopted native son, James Oliver Hogg. He had actually been born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1858 but the family moved to Hannibal the next year. James Oliver Hogg grew up in Hannibal as part of the construction dynasty founded by his father, John Oliver Hogg, one of Hannibal's most prominent contractors.⁴⁸ First as Hogg and Shedd and later as Hogg and Son, this construction enterprise would span well into the twentieth century and be responsible for many of the fine homes of Hannibal, including their family home at 1016 Center and a number of other houses in the Maple Avenue Historic District (currently nominated to the National Register) that is directly behind the courthouse. James Oliver Hogg had received his architectural training at the University of Illinois⁴⁹ and arrived in Kansas City around 1886 where he established a successful practice. He became well known for his commercial designs. The most notable of his commercial designs in Kansas City included several moving and storage company buildings, such as the 1902 Romanesque inspired warehouse for the Grand Avenue Storage Company at 1509 Walnut, and the 1907 design of the Advance Thresher Company Building at 1300 Liberty. In 1902, he also designed buildings for the Smith-Yost Pie Company at 210 West 19th Terrace and in 1904 he designed the commercial building at 701-707 Central, both in Kansas City. In Kansas City he also designed several significant houses, of which the most unusual was the Colonel Daniel B. Dyer Residence (demolished) that was completed in 1907 utilizing decorative details and woodwork from buildings at the Chicago and St. Louis expositions salvaged by Dyer. His career extended beyond Kansas City and his home town of Hannibal to include works in Parkville (Kansas) for Park College, a courthouse in Fort Smith (Arkansas), a bank building in Tulsa (Oklahoma) and the First Presbyterian Church in Orange (Texas).⁵⁰ He was also an early proponent of the use of reinforced concrete as a structural system and would later design the Atchinson County Memorial Building (in Atchinson, Kansas, listed on the National Register).⁵¹

In his early career, he provided the plans and specifications for the old police station in Hannibal at Fourth and Church Streets⁵² (listed on the National Register), which utilized onion-top domes and oriental influences in its 1878 design. Since the larger dome is now missing from the old police station and there is some debate as to whether it was really his design, the Marion County Courthouse in Hannibal is the best recognized example of his work in Hannibal. It is also one of his few identified designs in Hannibal as well as one of the rare examples of his public building designs.

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²*Ibid.*, pp. 39, 45-46.

³*Ibid.*, p. 48.

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 48-50, 301.

⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 60, 67, 71-79, 92-93, and 100-101.

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 82-84, 91-92, 99, 153-154 and 301; Evelyn Cleveland, "Population Density: Marion County," in *Missouri County Fact Sheets*, [online], Columbia: University of Missouri-Outreach and Extension, 1998, [cited 4 June 2002], available from the World Wide Web <http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/historicdata/popsqmi/29127.html>.

⁷Hagood, *The Story of Hannibal*, pp. 15, 18; "History of Founding of Marion County and Its First Court," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post*, 28 March 1925, sec. 2, pp. 2-6.

⁸"Former Marion Courthouse Built 8 Decades Ago," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post Centennial Edition*, 30 June 1938, p. B13; Marian M Ohman, *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses*, Columbia: University of Missouri-Columbia, Extension Division, 1981, n.p.

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¹⁶Kuhn, "Marion County Courthouse" and Ohman, *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses*, n.p.

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³⁵"Awarded the Contract," *Hannibal (Missouri) Morning Journal*, 24 July 1901, p. 1.

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³⁷Richards, Diary, 27 July 1900, cited by Hagood, *Hannibal History Index*, "Marion Country Courthouse."

³⁸"Improvement Association." *Hannibal (Missouri) Morning Journal*, 9 July 1901, p. 1 and "Improvement Association Meets and Plans a Party to Dedicate New Court House." *Hannibal (Missouri) Morning Journal*, 18 April 1901, cited by Roberta and J. Hurley Hagood, *Hannibal History Index*, "Marion Country Courthouse."

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⁴¹"Court House Opening," *Hannibal (Missouri) Weekly Journal*, 13 July 1901, p. 4.

⁴²"A Burst of Splendor."

⁴³"Court House Opening."

⁴⁴"Commendable Colored Men," *Hannibal (Missouri) Weekly Journal*, 13 July 1901, p. 4.

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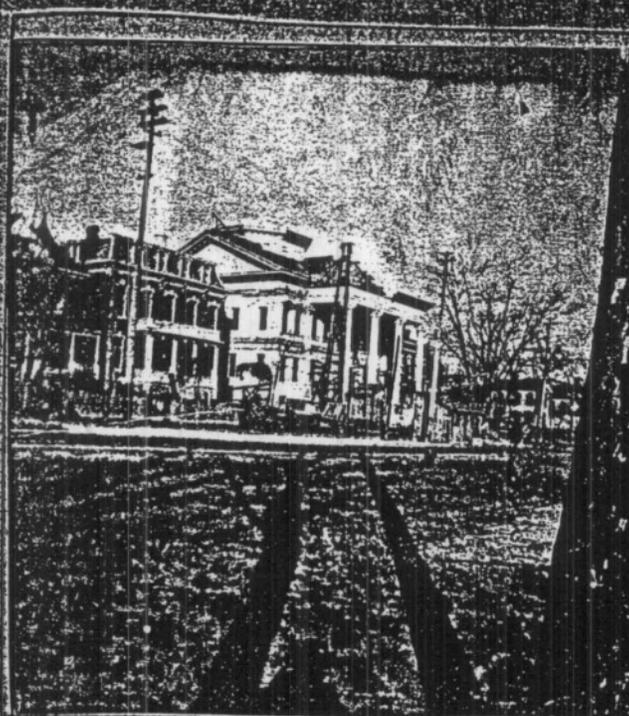
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Historic Photo from 1901
Showing Building Under Construction

*Courtesy of: Hannibal, Missouri.
Steve Chou. Private Photograph Collection.*



Marion County Courthouse under construction, 1901.
Workers shacks in place. Dome and front porch not
finished. Note chicken in the middle of Broadway!

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Historic Postcard and Historic Photo
Same View, Taken Circa 1901

*Courtesy of: Hannibal, Missouri.
Steve Chou. Private Photograph Collection.*



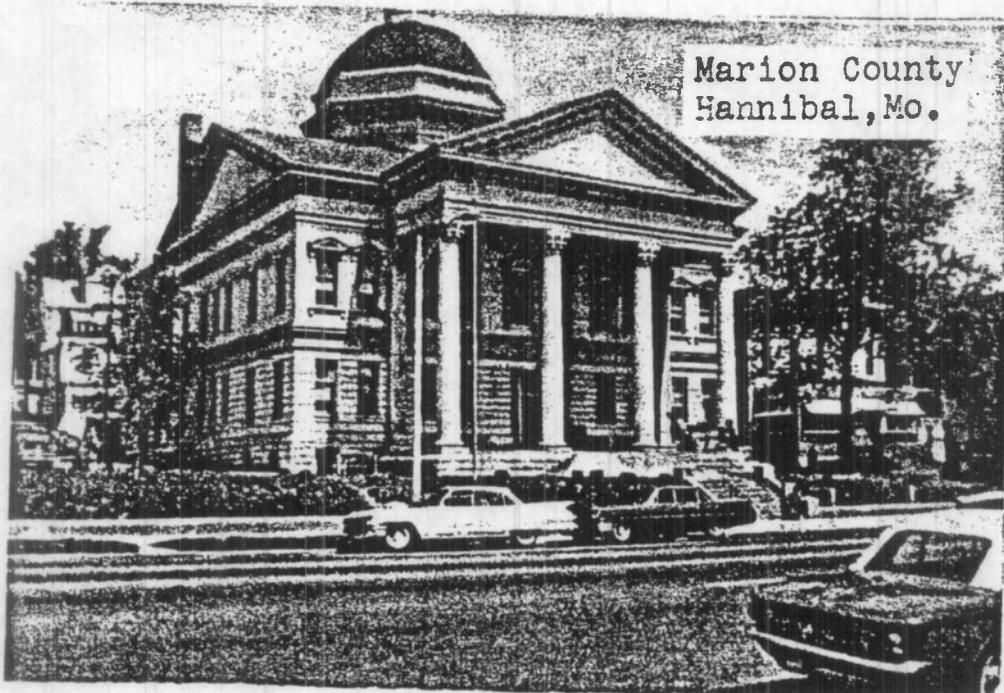
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Marion County Courthouse
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Historic Photo, Circa 1965

*Courtesy of: Hannibal, Missouri.
Steve Chou. Private Photograph Collection.*



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Verbal Boundary Description

The west 6 feet of Lot 1 and all of Lots 2 and 3 of Brittingham's Subdivision of Outlot 72, City of Hannibal, Missouri.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries incorporate all of the property that is associated with this building and the property's legal description.

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Photo Log

Information common to all photographs listed below:

Marion County Courthouse

Marion County, MO

Negatives with Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO

Photo #1: Exterior, looking north from Broadway
Frank Salter, photographer, April 2002

Photo #2: Exterior, looking west from Broadway
Frank Salter, photographer, April 2002

Photo #3: Exterior, looking southeast at back of building
Karen Bode Baxter, photographer, June 2002

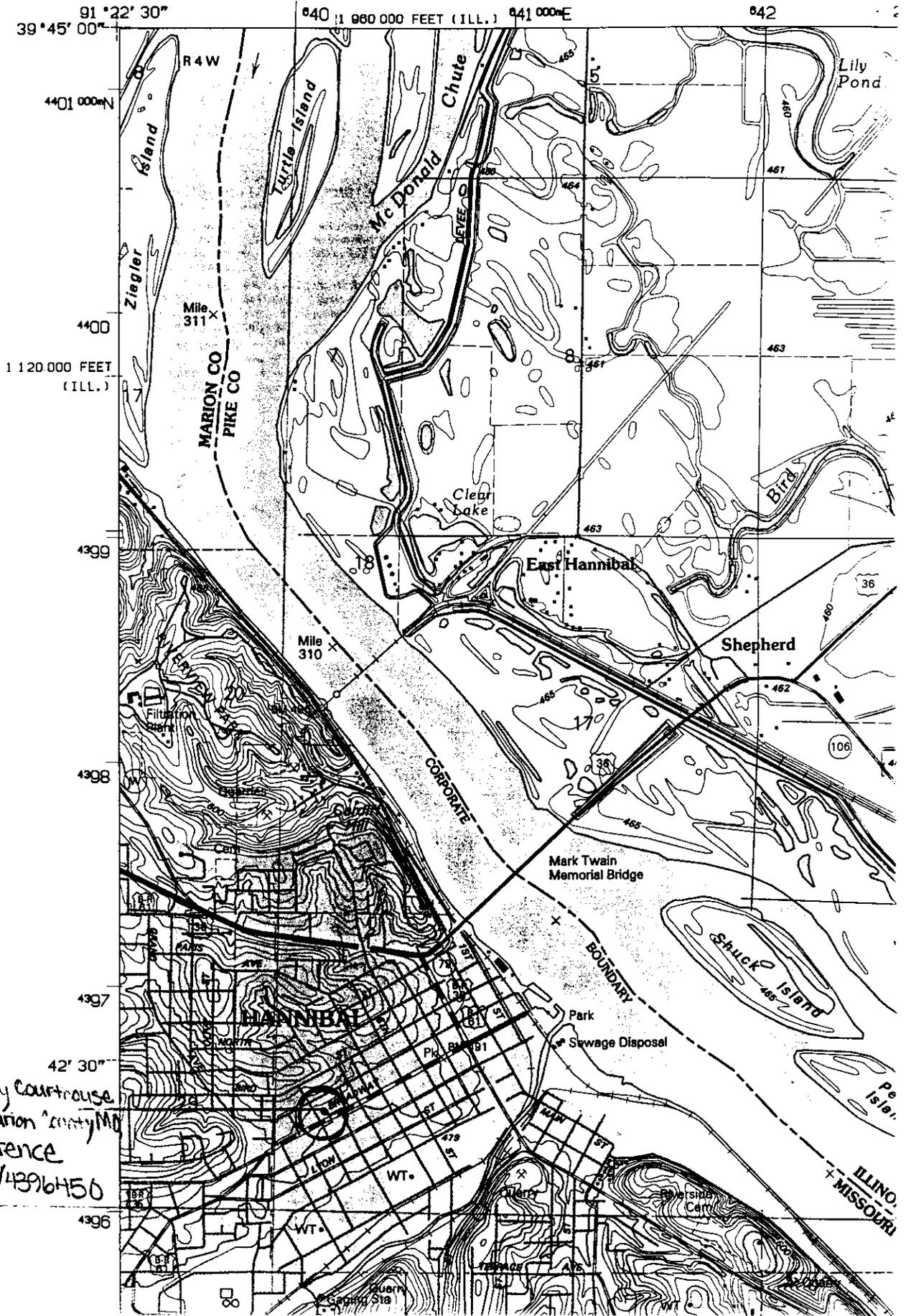
Photo #4: Exterior, detail of column capital and entablature
Karen Bode Baxter, photographer, June 2002

Photo #5: Interior, looking up from stair landing into dome
Frank Salter, photographer, April 2002

Photo #6: Interior: looking northwest and up stairs to window and wall into courtroom at north end of building
Frank Salter, photographer, April 2002

Photo #7: Interior, courtroom at north end of building, looking southwest
Frank Salter, photographer, April 2002

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Marion County Courthouse
Hannibal, Marion County, MO
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